Repair and Maintenance of Rishikesh-Nitimana National Highway

† *349. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of rupees are spent annually towards repair and maintenance of Rishikesh-Nitimana National Highway which is repeatedly damaged between Kalyasore and Khankara at Sirobagar,

(b) whether it is also a fact that Dugripanth-Langualionbagar- Khankara by-pass has been constructed on the said National Highway but the same has not been declared as a National Highway due to which attention is not paid towards repair of both roads;

(c) by when the said by-pass would be declared as a National Highway; and

(d) the plan to deal with the repeated damages to the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KH ANDURIJ: (a) Rishikesh — Mana section of NH 58 is being maintained in traffic worthy condition with normal maintenance grant of Rs. 43,900/- per km. per year. This includes maintenance of the road stretch from Kalyasore to Khankara (10 km. Length) affected by landslides. Landslides are natural phenomenon occurring on hill roads particularly during monsoons. In addition to the normal repaiis and maintenance, in the last two years a sum of Rs. 6.00 crore has been spent for development of this section of NH 58.

(b) There is no such bypass on NH-58.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The plan to deal with the repeated damages to the road due to landslides/ blockades includes stabilization of slopes by providing plantation/vegetative cover and other stabilization measures. Stabilization of hill slopes is a continuous process.

PDS in Tribal Areas

† *350. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: -

(a) whether 20 kg. of foodgrains was being provided earlier in tribal areas under the Revamped Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether 20 kg. of foodgrains is also being provided to persons below poverty line now;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.